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FORTHCOMING ISSUE

ISSUE (QUARTER)

March 2011

Release Date

8 March 2011

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the December 2010 issue of Tasmanian Statistical News.

Want to hear about the new geographical classification that all ABS' spatial data will be based on in the future? Looking for a better way to find information on the ABS website? Interested in regional data? Want to know about what's been happening in the world of agricultural statistics? Need a guide for using statistics for evidence-based policy?

The 'What's New' Section in this issue will inform you about those areas of interest.

Other topics discussed in this issue include: the 2011 Census and Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities, ABS assistance for the Tasmanian Cost of Living Strategy, World Statistics Day celebrations around Australia, NatStats Conference recommendations, Australian Social Trends, new Media Centre page and Disability and Carers topic page on the ABS website, new releases, upcoming training and statistical literacy.

There is even an opportunity to have your say in improving the content of Tasmanian publications produced by the ABS.

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

What's New



WHAT'S NEW

[New Australian Standard Geographical Classification \(ASGS\) coming soon](#)

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NEW AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION (ASGS) COMING SOON

From July 2011, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) will progressively replace the current Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) with the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). The ABS anticipates that all its spatial data will be based on the ASGS by 2014.

The ASGS will be used for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Census data for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) will also be available from the 2011 Population Census to provide a bridge between the ASGC and the ASGS.

REGIONS OF THE ASGS

The ASGS brings all the regions used by the ABS to output data under the one umbrella. They are divided into two broad categories:

1. ABS structures, those regions which are defined and maintained by the ABS.
2. Non-ABS structures, those regions defined and maintained by other organisations, but for which the ABS releases data.

The ABS structures are a hierarchy of regions specifically developed for the release of particular ABS statistics described below.

ABS Regions

Mesh Blocks are the smallest area geographical region. There are approximately 348,000 covering the whole of Australia. They broadly identify land use such as: residential, commercial, agriculture and parks etc. Residential and agricultural Mesh Blocks usually contain 30 to 60 households. Mesh Blocks are the building block for all the larger regions of the ASGS. Only limited Census data, total population and dwelling counts will be released at the mesh block level.

Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1s) will be the smallest region for which a wide range of Census data will be released. They will have an average population of about 400. They will be built from whole Mesh Blocks and there will be approximately 55,000 covering the whole of Australia.

Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s) will have an average population of about 10,000, with a minimum population of 3,000 and a maximum of 25,000. The SA2s are the regions for which the majority of ABS sub-state non-census data, for example Estimated Resident Population and Health and Vital Statistics, will be released. There will be about 2,200 SA2s, built from whole SA1s.

Statistical Areas Level 3 (SA3s) are a medium sized region with a population of 30,000 to 130,000. They represent the functional areas of regional cities and large urban transport and service hubs. They will be built from whole SA2s.

Statistical Areas Level 4 (SA4s) will be used for the release of Labour Force Statistics.

Urban Centres/Localities, Section of State and Remoteness Areas will define the built up area of Australia's towns and cities and will be broadly comparable to previous Censuses.

Greater Capital City Statistical Areas and Significant Urban Areas define the Capital Cities, major regional cities and towns of Australia with a population over 10,000. This includes both the built up area, any likely medium term expansion and their area of immediate economic influence.

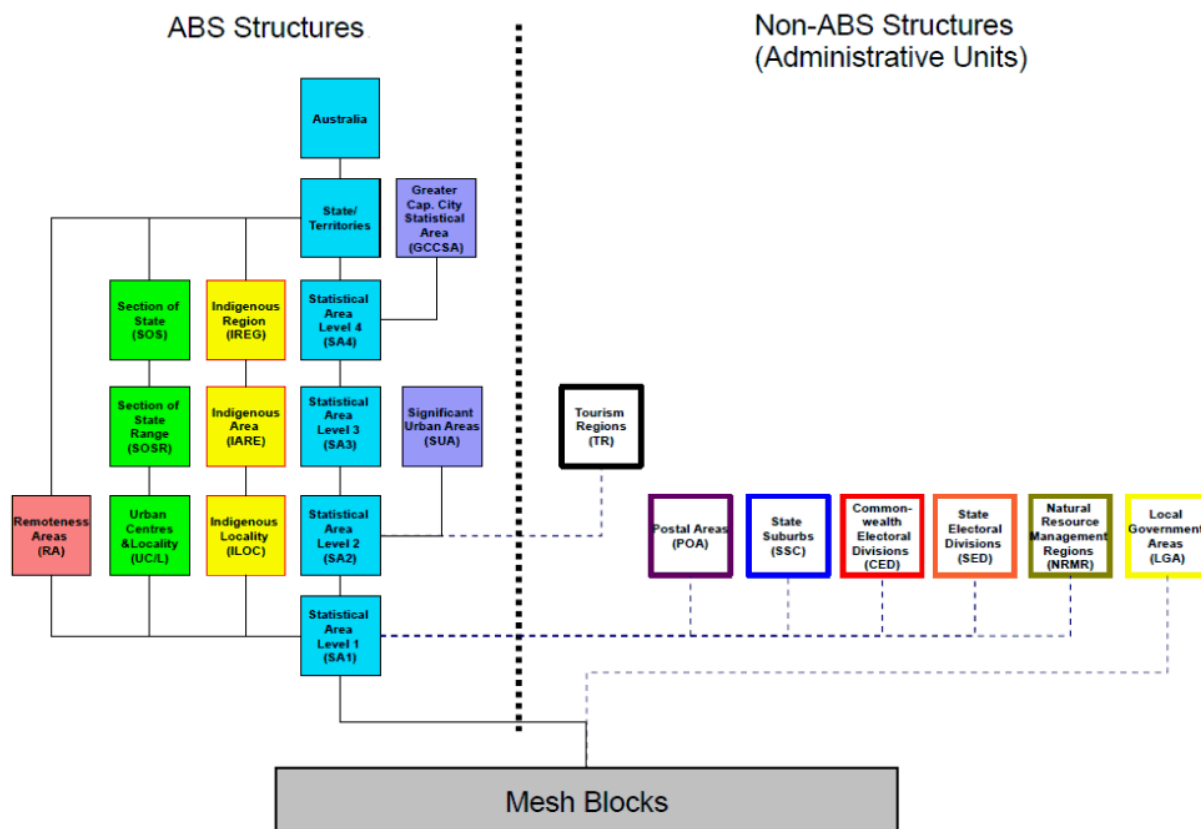
Indigenous Regions, Areas and Localities are designed for the presentation of Indigenous data. At the Indigenous Locality level it is possible to identify data on particular Indigenous Communities.

Non-ABS Regions

Non-ABS structures will be approximated or built directly from Mesh Blocks or SA1s. The Non-ABS structures include such important regions as: Local Government Areas (LGAs), postal areas, state gazetted suburbs and electoral divisions. LGAs remain part of the ASGS and the ABS will continue to support LGAs with the data it currently provides.

The diagram below summarises the overall structure of the ASGS.

The Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Structure and Summary



RELEASE OF THE ASGS

The ABS will publish the ASGS manual with the boundaries, labels and codes for the SAs 1-4 and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas in late 2010 or early 2011.

The Non-ABS structures will be released in mid 2011; this is to ensure that the Census is released on the most up-to-date boundaries available. Urban Centres and Localities, Section of State, Remoteness and Significant Urban Areas will be released in 2012 as they require an analysis of Census data to be developed.

The regions defined in the ABS structures will not change until the next Census in 2016, although the Non-ABS structures will be updated annually.

The ASGS will come into effect on 1 July 2011.

Further Information

For more information please follow the link to the ABS Geography Portal.

If you have any questions regarding the ASGS please email geography@abs.gov.au.

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NEWS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE BUSINESS STATISTICS CENTRE

Since the last edition of this newsletter, Hobart's Environment and Agriculture Business Statistics Centre (BSC) has been heavily involved in the production and output of regular monthly and annual Agriculture publications as well as preparations for major surveys and releases in 2011.

The Agricultural Resource Management Survey 2009-10 (ARMS) commenced in June this year, with approximately 38,000 farm businesses being sent the survey form to complete. The survey collects a reduced set of commodities when compared to the Agricultural Survey in 2009, but focuses more strongly on land management data. The collected data are accessed by a number of major users, including state and federal governments, who use the information for budgets, policy and planning purposes. Of course, primary producers, industry organisations and other agricultural businesses are also significant users of the survey data. Preliminary results from this survey were published to the ABS website in November 2010 in *Principal Agricultural Commodities, Australia - Preliminary* (cat. no. 7111.0).

For those readers familiar with our monthly publication of wheat stocks and use *Wheat Use and Stocks - Australia* (cat. no. 7307.0), there have been changes in the availability of data regarding stocks and use of barley and selected other grains and pulses. Until recently, data cubes containing quarterly estimates of stocks and use of barley and selected other grains and pulses were included in this publication. Following a review of the various associated collections and the changing data needs of clients, the collection of these data has ceased. Final updated estimates of stocks of barley and selected other grains and pulses will be published in the December 2010 and March 2011 issues of *Wheat Use and Stocks - Australia*, after which these data will no longer be available. The publication of monthly data on wheat stocks, use and commitments will continue unchanged.

There have also been changes to our livestock collections. A new methodology and revised definitions have been adopted for producing estimates of livestock slaughtering as a result of an ongoing quality review of this collection and following consultation with key users. The livestock slaughtered estimates are derived from a monthly collection of activity for major abattoirs, with adjustments to account for smaller operators and on-farm slaughtering. From July 2010 on-farm slaughter of livestock is no longer included in the estimates of livestock slaughtering. The calf and pig definitions used in the Livestock Slaughtering collection have also been aligned to current industry standards. The above changes impact on livestock slaughter and production estimates published in *Livestock and Meat, Australia* (cat. no. 7218.0.55.001) as well as related quarterly

slaughtering estimates published in Livestock Products, Australia (cat. no. 7215.0). To assist users in accounting for any associated breaks in time series, issues of both publications incorporate re-based historical estimates.

Next year (2011) the ABS will be conducting the Agricultural Census, a national collection which is run every fifth year and is second only in size to the Population and Housing Census (which will also be conducted in 2011). Forms will be sent out to every agricultural business in Australia in June, with preliminary data expected to be published before the end of 2011.

As foreshadowed in our September issue, the annual Australian Farming in Brief, 2010 (cat. no. 7106.0) was published on 9 September 2010 on the ABS website. Released as a downloadable pamphlet, it contains snapshots of key data relating to Australian farming.

Further information on the ABS' Agricultural Statistics Program can be found under 'Agriculture' on the Topics @ a Glance page on the ABS website. [Back to top](#)

NEW GUIDE FOR USING STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE BASED POLICY



'Why do statistics matter? In simple terms, they are the evidence on which policies are built. They help to identify needs, set goals and monitor progress. Without good statistics, the development process is blind: policy-makers cannot learn from their mistakes, and the public cannot hold them accountable' (World Bank, 2000: vii).

There is an increasing emphasis within Australia, and internationally, on the importance of using good statistical information when making policy decisions. The former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said in an address to the Heads of Agencies in 2008, the Government's agenda was to ensure, 'a robust evidence based policy making process. We're interested in facts not fads'.

In accordance with the ABS mission to 'assist and encourage informed decision-making', the ABS Statistical Literacy Unit has recently redeveloped the Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy. The revised guide was officially launched by the Australian Statistician, Mr Brian Pink, on World Statistics day, October 20, 2010.

The Guide provides an overview of how data can be used to make well informed policy decisions, and includes the following information:

- What is evidence based decision making?
- How good statistics can enhance the decision making process
- Using statistics for making evidence based decisions
- Data awareness
- Understanding statistical concepts
- Analysing and evaluating statistical information
- Communicating statistical findings
- Evaluating policy outcomes

We hope this will be a useful resource for policy and decision makers, and lead to an increased use of appropriate statistics in the decision making process.

The guide is available on the ABS website (<https://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/1500.0>).

For further information about the publication or statistical literacy activities please email statistical.literacy@abs.gov.au or phone (03) 9615 7062.

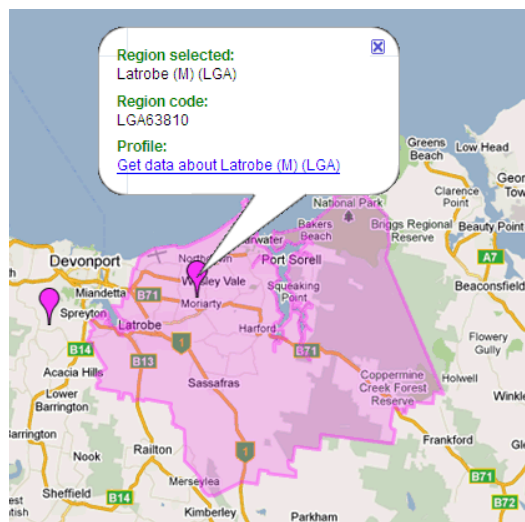
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REGIONAL DATA MADE EASY

If you are looking for data for your region, then the National Regional Profile (NRP) is a great place to start. The latest NRP contains data snapshots for over 2,000 regions across Australia, with five years of data where it is available. You can find updated profiles of Local Government Areas and other types of regions in Tasmania from an easy to use map or list.

What you will find for each region is a range of data from the ABS and other sources organised into 'economy', 'population/people', 'industry' and 'environment/energy' headings. Some of the data items include: estimates of unemployment, estimated residential population, building approvals, plus many more. The data is presented for all years on common boundaries, making it easy to compare data over time.

This latest addition of the National Regional Profile includes new data items for the first time such as tourist accommodation establishments, Baby Bonus and Family Tax Benefit recipients.



The next NRP is expected to be released in about April 2011, with further updates to important series such as births and deaths. The NRP is available from the ABS Home page, or directly from this link: National Regional Profile.

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THE LATEST AG MAG IS OUT !



The Agriculture and Environment Business Statistics Centre (BSC) has released its latest edition of the e-magazine "Ag Mag - the agricultural newsletter". The publication has been prepared for the first time in the Agriculture Publications section of the ABS' Tasmanian Office, after previously emanating from Canberra.

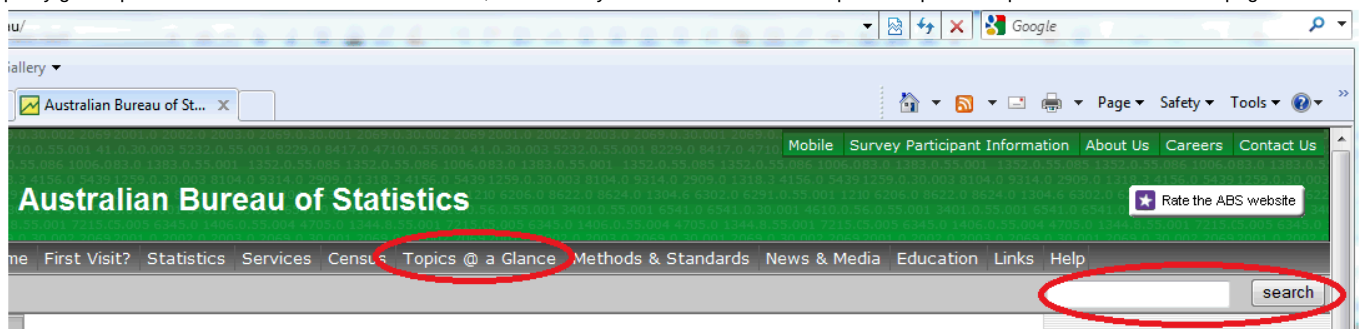
The latest edition, released on 1 December 2010, gives an insight into the latest Agricultural news as well as previewing future Agricultural collections. Written in a lighter style, it's one you should check out. Go to Ag Mag (cat. no. 7101.0) on the ABS website.

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LOOKING FOR A BETTER WAY TO FIND INFORMATION ON THE ABS WEBSITE?

Have you ever wanted to know how to find all the information that ABS has about a particular topic. such as tourism, sport or children and youth? How would you go about searching for this on the ABS website?

The first thing that occurs to most would be to use the **Search** option on the Home Page at www.abs.gov.au. With our improved search tool this is a pretty good option and will return a list of linked results, from which you can choose to follow a path to a particular publication or other web page.



Another, less well known option is to go to the "Topics @ a Glance" pages, which were launched on 28 September 2010. They were previously known as "Theme" pages.

Information around a range of topics is drawn together under the broader headings of Economy, People, Environment & Energy, Industry and Regional. These pages are written by the people in the ABS who collect and publish the statistics from the various surveys, and who are most familiar with their own topics.


Economy	People	Environment & Energy	Regional
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Indicators• Balance of Payments• Business Demography• Finance• Foreign Investment and Foreign Debt• Foreign Trade• Government Finance Statistics• National Accounts• Prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ageing• Census• Children and Youth• Crime and Justice• Culture and Recreation• Demography• Disability and Carers• Education and Training• Family and Community Statistics• Gender• Health• Housing• Indigenous• Labour• Migrant & Ethnicity• Mortality• Personal, Family and Household Finances• Social Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment and Energy <div>Industry</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture• Construction• Innovation, Science & Technology• Manufacturing Statistics• Mining• Retail• Service Industries Statistics• Tourism• Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Statistics• New South Wales• Victoria• Queensland• South Australia• Western Australia• Tasmania• Northern Territory• Australian Capital Territory

Each of these links leads to a separate page that typically covers:


- the range of statistics provided by the ABS on that topic, and related topics
- the latest news from each area
- latest publications available and
- help about interpreting and using the statistics

Recently updated Topics @ a Glance pages that may be of interest are Gender and Disability and Carers.

ABS Tasmania also has a Topics page, which features links to published statistics about Tasmania, a noticeboard for the latest news, which includes information about upcoming training and seminars, and contact details for the services we provide.



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Topics @ a Glance - States

Tasmania

This page provides access to Tasmanian statistical information, including statistical releases and links to non-ABS sources. A wide range of economic and social statistics are covered.

About Tasmania

Tasmania, the smallest of Australia's six states, is an island lying off the south-east corner of the Australian mainland. Roughly triangular in shape, it is surrounded by smaller islands, the most important ones being Flinders, King and Bruny. The state is separated from the Australian mainland by Bass Strait, and the remaining coastline is bounded by the Southern Ocean on the south and west and the Tasman Sea on the east. Hobart, Tasmania's capital city, is in the south of the state, extending over both sides of the River Derwent. Founded in 1804, it is the second oldest city in Australia. Today Hobart functions as the main administrative and commercial centre of the state.

Tasmania's population is divided almost equally between the north and south. The population pattern has resulted from geographical, historical and commercial factors which have led to the development of a number of relatively large centres on the island's north coast. These serve as centres for the agricultural and industrial activities typical of the region and include Launceston, Devonport and Burnie.

Noticeboard

Information on relevant work in progress, what's new and latest updates.

Tasmanian releases

Release information including upcoming releases, statistical publications and other relevant indicators.

Using ABS Statistics

Information for interpreting statistics.

Other related sources of information

Includes non ABS links and sources of information.

Contacts

Contact details for queries re Tasmanian data or services.

Services for Tasmanian Government

Information on advisory groups, ABS information consultancies, outposted officers, training and more.

Next time you need to know "all about" a particular subject on the ABS website, why not try the Topics @ a Glance pages as a starting point?

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NEW DISABILITY AND CARERS TOPIC PAGE

As part of the new Topics @ a Glance pages release in late September 2010, information about Disability and Carers has now been grouped into a separate topic. The subject matter is now organised into the following:

Disability and Carers
Disability related surveys
Disabling conditions
Carers
Population groups
Social indicators
Research papers and articles
Other links

The aim of the new design is to make publications and information papers easier to find.

'Ageing' has been removed from the title as the Ageing area is currently updating its own topics pages.

Watch the Disability and Carers topics pages for a new publication release in January 2011!

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MEDIA CENTRE ON THE ABS WEBSITE

The ABS recognises that opinion leaders, including journalists, often assist people in the community to understand the relevance of statistics to their everyday lives. As a response to this, the ABS has created a Media Centre which is a dedicated journalists' portal, with emphasis on quick access to key data. It also has educative resources aimed at encouraging and improving statistical literacy.

ABS Tasmania and ABS ACT laid the groundwork for establishing potential methods to address statistical literacy among the target groups of journalists and journalism students. The Tasmanian office of the ABS worked with the University of Tasmania to identify and address the statistical literacy needs of journalism students, while the ACT office of the ABS worked to identify the statistical literacy needs of working journalists. Based on extensive feedback obtained in the course of that project, a key recommendation was the development of a dedicated journalist's portal on the ABS website.

The Media Centre can be found under 'News and Media' on the ABS website (see below):

News & Media

News & Media
Media Centre
ABS in the Media
ABS Statistics & Publications
Release Dates
Resources for Reporting Statistics
Conferences, Seminars and Events
Media Centre Feedback Survey
Contact Us
Quick Links
Consumer Price Index
Unemployment Rate
Retail Trade Figures
Building Approvals Figures
GDP Trend Figures



Media Centre

The ABS Media Centre provides journalists with access to key media resources. In the Media Centre you will find media releases, links to key statistics, information on how to understand and report statistics, as well as contact details for all media and data enquiries.



[ABS in the Media](#)

Links to ABS media releases, as well as ABS responses to media articles.



[Release Dates](#)

Click here for the release dates of key ABS statistics.



[ABS Statistics & Publications](#)

Where to find information on ABS statistics and publications.



[Resources for Reporting Statistics](#)

Tools and resources to help you understand, interpret and report statistical information.

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Hot Topics



HOT TOPICS

[The 2011 Census and Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities](#)

[ABS assistance for the Tasmanian Cost of Living Strategy](#)

[World Statistics Day celebrations around Australia](#)

[NatStats 2010 Conference](#)

[Australian Social Trends](#)

[New release - Births, Australia 2009 \(cat. no. 3301.0\)](#)

[New release - Deaths, Australia, 2009 \(cat. no. 3302.0\)](#)

[New release - Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2003-04 to 2007-08 \(cat. no. 6524.0.55.002\)](#)

[New release - Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 \(cat. no. 5673.0.55.003\)](#)

THE 2011 CENSUS AND TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

The 2011 Census of Population and Housing will be conducted on 9 August 2011. Information collected in the Census is used extensively by policy and decision makers at national, state and local levels by government and non-government agencies.

The Census enables a range of quality data to be provided to agencies to inform the development of policies and the provision of services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout Australia. It is also used to monitor progress of the implementation of national goals to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage.

To ensure progress can be made, ABS Tasmania recognises the need to improve the accuracy of the responses of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the 2011 Census and will build on the relationship established through the Tasmanian Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy (ICES) to enable this to occur.

ABS Tasmania will work strategically with Aboriginal communities, community members and community organisations to raise awareness of the Census and to discuss how Census data can meet the needs of their communities.

The ABS will visit Aboriginal communities in the lead up to the Census to seek advice about strategies to ensure the quality and accuracy of the data. Recently ABS staff visited Launceston, Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island for preliminary discussions about these strategies. These meetings were successful with positive support offered for the Census. ABS staff will continue to visit communities during 2011.



We're off to Cape Barren Island!



Denise Gardner, Manager Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association and Liz Milewicz, ABS

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ABS ASSISTANCE FOR THE TASMANIAN COST OF LIVING STRATEGY

As part of the 2010-11 Budget, the State Government has funded the development of a Cost of Living Strategy for Tasmania. An ABS officer has recently begun a nine month outposting with the Social Inclusion Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC) to provide statistical support to the Tasmanian Cost of Living Strategy. The role of the outposted officer will be to provide an accurate picture of cost of living in Tasmania by developing an evidence base of relevant data and analysing the distribution of cost of living pressures experienced by various income groups and household types as well as places at risk of social exclusion in Tasmania. The Tasmanian Cost of Living Strategy is due for completion by June 2011.

Further information on this outposting can be obtained by contacting:

Ms Louise Hawker at ABS (tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au), phone (03) 6222 5832; or

Ms Mellissa Gray at DPAC (mellissa.gray@dpac.tas.gov.au), phone (03) 6232 7141.

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WORLD STATISTICS DAY CELEBRATIONS AROUND AUSTRALIA

The inaugural World Statistics Day, which was initiated by the United Nations, was celebrated on 20 October 2010. Statistics seminars and gatherings were held around the country within the ABS and across the wider statistical community.

ABS Central Office hosted a seminar with guest speaker Professor Glenn Withers from Universities Australia talking about the importance of statistics for policy making.

Brian Pink, the Australian Statistician, released:

- A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy;
- the recommendations of NatStats 2010 and the NatStats 2010 DVD; and
- the Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey final results

ABS State Offices celebrated World Statistics Day by holding seminars and presentations which demonstrated the statistical achievements in the different Australian regions. An important feature of this unique day was the recognition and celebration of the core values of the ABS - service to the nation, professionalism and integrity, and the commitment to these values by all ABS staff in their daily work.

The Tasmanian Office celebrated the day by hosting a gathering of users and producers of statistics within the Tasmanian Government associated with the Tasmanian Statistical Advisory Committee (TSAC). The meeting concluded with a morning tea during which attendees had the opportunity to network and discuss their individual projects and interests.

World Statistics Day provided a great opportunity to engage with stakeholders and to thank the general community for their trust in ABS statistics and their commitment to making Australia better by providing information on their lives, households, businesses and community issues.

For further information regarding World Statistics Day visit UNSD website.



Professor Glenn Withers, Universities Australia



Brian Pink, ABS

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NATSTATS 2010 CONFERENCE

NatStats 2010 Conference
15-17 September 2010 Darling Harbour Sydney

The NatStats 2010 Conference was held from 15-17 September 2010 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

The conference was very successful and attracted over 460 delegates, 54 presenters and 14 exhibitors both representing users and providers of data from government, business, the media, academia and the wider community.

The overall theme for NatStats 2010: "Measuring what counts: economic development, well-being and progress in 21st century Australia", explored drivers of economic and related social change that are shaping Australia's future development.

One of the key outcomes of the Conference was the development of a set of conference recommendations - broad, strategic objectives that will assist in setting directions for shaping a future statistical system that will be relevant and responsive to future challenges in Australia. The final recommendations were formally released on 20 October 2010, to celebrate World Statistics Day.

Please visit the NatStats 2010 Website to view the Conference Recommendations, speaker presentations and photos.

www.nss.gov.au/natstats2010



Brian Pink, ABS

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

September release of *Australian Social Trends*

The ABS released the last edition of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) on 29 September 2010. The publication draws together a wide range of statistics from the ABS and other official sources to provide a picture of Australian society and how it is changing over time.

The edition featured six articles:

- **Holidaying abroad**

There were a record 6.8 million short-term departures by Australians in 2009-10, equivalent to 31 trips for every 100 Australians.

- **New Zealanders in Australia**

There were 529, 200 New Zealand-born people living in Australia in 2009, up by 89% over the last two decades. In 2006, it was estimated that for every 100 New Zealanders living in New Zealand, there were 15 living in Australia.

- **Parental divorce or death during childhood**

Compared with people whose parents did not divorce or separate, those who did, were less likely to finish school, more likely to enter a de facto relationship at a younger age, and of those who married, they were less likely to remain married.

- **The city and the bush: Indigenous wellbeing across Remoteness Areas**

While there have been improvements in a range of indicators for Indigenous Australians in recent years such as school completion rates and employment, inequalities remain evident between Remoteness Areas.

- **Older people and the labour market**

Just over one-third of all people aged 55 years and over (or 1.9 million people) were in the labour force in 2009-10, with this participation rate increasing strongly over the past decade.

- **Australian workers: Educational and workplace training**

The labour force is becoming increasingly skilled with 66% of workers having a non-school qualification in 2009, up from 59% in 2001. One third of people aged 25-34 years had a bachelor degree or higher, making this group the most qualified.

National and state Indicators

National and state indicators show a range of statistics covering different social areas both at a national as well as state and territory level. Released in September were health and economic resources indicators.

December 2010 release of *Australian Social Trends*

The next release of *Australian Social Trends* on 14 December 2010 will have articles focusing on housing, households and fertility. The national and state indicators to be released at the same time relate to work, family and community, housing and international comparisons.

The September 2010 edition of *Australian Social Trends* (cat. no. 4102.0) is available for free download from the ABS website, www.abs.gov.au.

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NEW RELEASE - BIRTHS, AUSTRALIA, 2009 (CAT. NO. 3301.0)

Parents in Tasmania are amongst Australia's youngest

There were 6,600 births registered to women living in Tasmania in 2009, approximately 2% less than in 2008 (6,800).

In 2009, the median age of Tasmanian women who gave birth was 29.1 years, while the median age of fathers (where age was known) was 31.7 years. These were both lower than the median ages recorded for Australia, and were the second youngest of all the states and territories (the Northern Territory recorded the youngest median ages).

As well as being younger, Tasmanian parents are less likely to be married at the time of the birth than in other states and territories. In 2009, Tasmania recorded the second highest proportion of babies born into ex-nuptial relationships (51%), following the Northern Territory (63%). Of these ex-nuptial births, only 6% were registered without acknowledgment from the father, however the number of ex-nuptial births may be understated due to the inclusion of birth notifications (see paragraphs 31 to 33 of the Explanatory Notes in *Births Australia, 2009* (cat. no. 3301.0) for more information).

Tasmania recorded the highest total fertility rate (TFR) of all the states and territories in 2009, at 2.18 babies per woman. This was a decrease from the TFR of 2.24 babies per woman recorded for births registered during 2008. Over the past decade, the TFR for Tasmanian women has consistently been above the TFR for Australia.

Tasmanian women aged 25–29 years experienced the highest fertility rate of all age groups in 2009, with 130 babies per 1,000 women, while women aged 30–34 years recorded the highest fertility rate in all other states and territories in Australia. Tasmania also recorded the second highest teenage fertility rate for women aged 15–19 years, at 27.1 babies per 1,000 women, following the Northern Territory at 48.0 babies per 1,000 women aged 15–19 years. The teenage fertility rate for Australia was 16.7 babies per 1,000 women in 2009.

More details on births in Australia and the states and territories are available in *Births, Australia, 2009* (cat. no. 3301.0).

Regional data will also be available from 9 December 2010.

NEW RELEASE - DEATHS, AUSTRALIA, 2009 (CAT. NO. 3302.0)

There were 4,200 deaths registered in Tasmania in 2009 (2,100 for both sexes). This is a slight decrease (0.7%) from the number of deaths registered in 2008.

In 2009, Tasmania had a standardised death rate (SDR) of 6.7 deaths per 1,000 standard population which was the second highest recorded of all the states and territories. The SDR for Australia was 5.7 deaths per 1,000 standard population (Note: The standardised death rate removes the effect of different age structures in different populations).

The median age at death for Tasmania has increased over the past ten years. In 1999, the median age at death was 77.8 years, 3 years younger than the median age at death in 2009 (80.3 years). In 2009, Australia recorded a median age at death of 80.8 years.

The infant mortality rate (IMR) in Tasmania was the third lowest in Australia, with 3.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009. The lowest IMRs were recorded in Western Australia (3.2 deaths per 1,000 live births) and the Australian Capital Territory (3.5 deaths per 1,000 live births). Australia recorded an IMR of 4.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.

More information on deaths in Tasmania, other states and territories and Australia can be found in Deaths, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 3302.0).

[Back to top](#)**NEW RELEASE - ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME FOR SMALL AREAS, TIME SERIES, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (CAT. NO. 6524.0.55.002)**

This publication, released on 14 September 2010, presents selected data on estimates of personal income for the years 2003-2004 to 2007-2008. The publication analyses changes in total income and average income by income source.

These data include income from:

- Wages and salaries
- Own unincorporated business
- Investment
- Superannuation and annuities
- Other sources (excluding Government pensions and allowances)

The data provides insights into the value of the various sources of income in regional economies. The publication's main features present an overview of the sources of personal income for Australia, highlighting some of the variations in growth rates. Data is presented on a range of geographical levels.

The publication shows that while people living in Hobart earn the highest average incomes in Tasmania, 6 of the top 10 high income regions are located outside the State's capital.

The Statistical Local Area (SLA) of Hobart - Remainder recorded an average total income of \$47,389 in 2007-08, followed by Hobart - Inner (\$46,051). West Coast (\$43,377) and Launceston - Inner (\$40,026) recorded the next highest average incomes. Kingborough - Part A, in the Greater Hobart area, rounded out the top five (\$39,786).

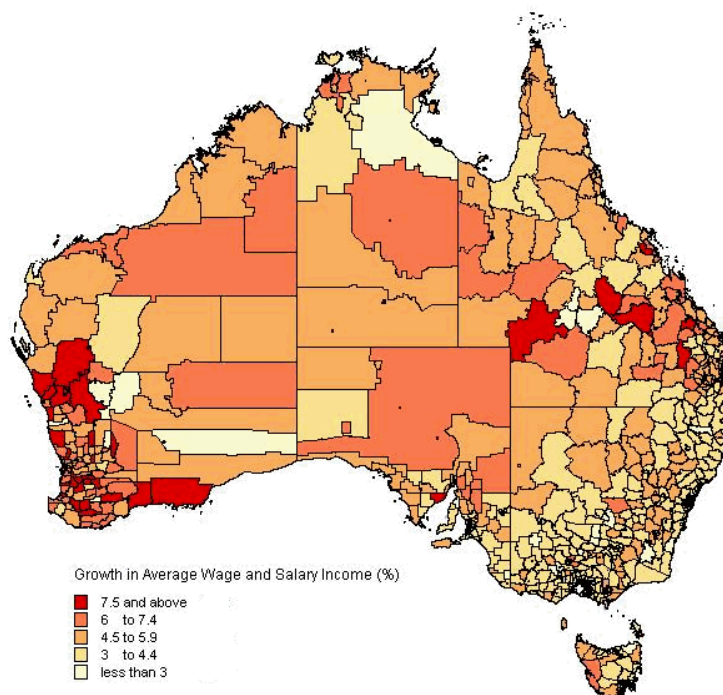
Other SLAs to record average total incomes higher than the State average (\$37,718) included Meander Valley - Part A (\$39,329), Clarence (\$39,070) and Burnie - Part A (\$38,369).

More information can be found in Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002).

[Back to top](#)**NEW RELEASE - WAGE AND SALARY EARNER STATISTICS FOR SMALL AREAS, TIME SERIES, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (CAT. NO. 5673.0.55.003)**

The latest edition of Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) was released on 6 October 2010. The publication looks at geographical variations in Wages and salaries and the characteristics of wage and salary earners such as age, sex and occupation. In this release, data are presented for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08 on a range of geographic levels. This product contains a main features which illustrates how the data can be used to explore the characteristics of regions at the small area level. A summary of key findings for each state and territory is also provided.

GROWTH OF AVERAGE INCOME FROM WAGES AND SALARIES - By Statistical Local Areas, Australia, 2003-04 to 2007-08



The publication shows that within the Greater Hobart Statistical Division, for two of the top five SLAs - Hobart (C) Inner and Hobart (C) Remainder, more than 30% of Wage and salary earners were employed as Professionals (compared to the State average of around 18%). This occupational group includes persons working in fields that are characterised by the need for a skill level equal to, or exceeding, a bachelor degree (or at least five years relevant experience). Occupations in this category include chemists, architects, accountants, engineers and dentists. Across Tasmania there were more male wage and salary earners than female earners, with males accounting for around 51% of the wage and salary earner population. However, in each of the top five average wage and salary earning SLAs in Greater Hobart Statistical Division (SD), female wage and salary earners outnumbered male earners, with females accounting for an average of 50.2% of earners in these areas.

More information can be found in Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2007-08 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003).

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How Can We Help



HOW CAN WE HELP

Review of Tasmanian Publications

[General statistical inquiries](#)

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[Need some statistical training?](#)

REVIEW OF TASMANIAN PUBLICATIONS

The ABS Tasmanian Office is conducting a review of publications about Tasmania. As part of this review we are seeking feedback from users concerning topics and content. These releases may be subject to future change so we are seeking an understanding of their value to our users.

The following links will take you to the publications under review:

- Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1307.6)
- Tasmanian Key Indicators (cat. no. 1304.6)
- Tasmania at a Glance (cat. no. 1305.6)
- Tasmanian Statistical News (cat. no. 1301.6.55.001)

If you have any views on the topics or contents of these publications or would like to make any suggestions, please forward these to chris.carswell@abs.gov.au or call Chris on (03) 6222 5848.

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GENERAL STATISTICAL INQUIRIES

We can help you to make a more informed decision...

Our consultants are available to discuss your information needs and assist you to obtain the data which will best meet your requirements.

A range of published data is available free of charge on our website and more detailed data can be tailored to your requirements as part of our priced information consultancy service. Contact our consultants who will discuss your needs in detail and provide you with an obligation free quote.

Phone: 1300 135 070 (between 9.00am-5.00pm EST)

Email: client.services@abs.gov.au

Fax: 1300 135 211

Post: Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney, 2001

Online Enquiry Form

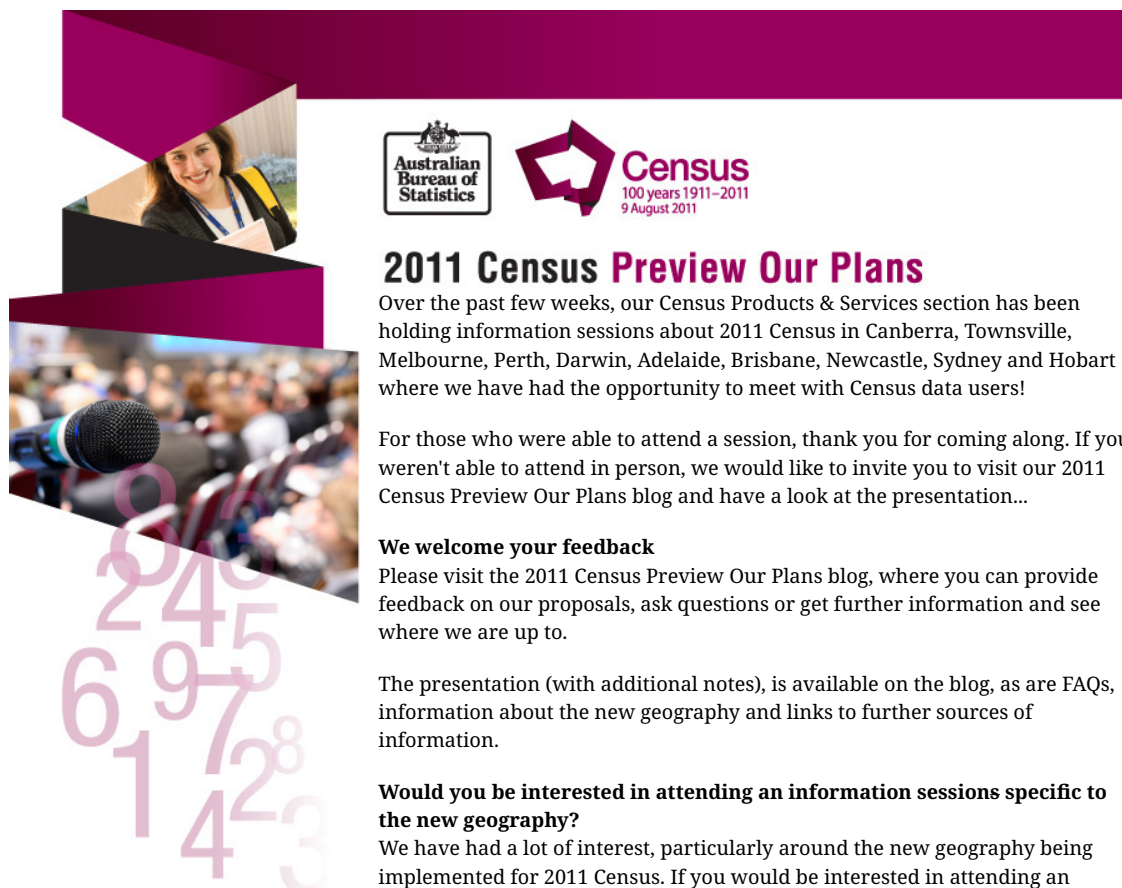
To find out more about how we can customise data tailored to meet your needs check out our Information Consultancy Services brochure online.

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UPCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

SEMINAR: INTRODUCTION TO ABS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Objectives	These seminars will increase participants' ability to access ABS information, including the wealth of free data available on the ABS website.
Who should attend	New starters in the State Service or others who expect to use ABS products and services.
Course benefits	Increased understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the range of ABS products and services available▪ statistical literacy▪ Census and regional data▪ where to get assistance
Length	1 1/2 hours
When	Tuesday 14 December 2010, 10.00 - 11.30 am or Monday 31 January 2011, 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm or Wednesday 2 March 2011, 10.00 am - 11.30 am or Thursday 5 May 2011, 2.00 pm - 3.30 pm
Cost	Free
For further information	Email: tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au



2011 Census Preview Our Plans

Over the past few weeks, our Census Products & Services section has been holding information sessions about 2011 Census in Canberra, Townsville, Melbourne, Perth, Darwin, Adelaide, Brisbane, Newcastle, Sydney and Hobart where we have had the opportunity to meet with Census data users!

For those who were able to attend a session, thank you for coming along. If you weren't able to attend in person, we would like to invite you to visit our 2011 Census Preview Our Plans blog and have a look at the presentation...

We welcome your feedback

Please visit the 2011 Census Preview Our Plans blog, where you can provide feedback on our proposals, ask questions or get further information and see where we are up to.

The presentation (with additional notes), is available on the blog, as are FAQs, information about the new geography and links to further sources of information.

Would you be interested in attending an information sessions specific to the new geography?

We have had a lot of interest, particularly around the new geography being implemented for 2011 Census. If you would be interested in attending an information session specific to the new geography, please leave a comment on our 2011 Census Preview Our Plans blog indicating which city you located in. Alternatively, send an email to census.software@abs.gov.au.

Subscribe to our mailing list for updates

To subscribe to our mailing list and be notified of Census-related updates, please send an email to census.users@abs.gov.au with subject as 'add to Census email'.



Data Confidentiality Symposium

9:15am–4:20pm, Tuesday 18 January 2011

**Lehany Theatre, Reception, CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering
Bradfield Road, West Lindfield NSW 2070**

<http://www.csiro.au/resources/CMSEsiteMap.html>

(Note: There is ample parking at the venue.)

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, CSIRO and the Statistical Society of Australia, Inc. (NSW) are sponsoring a one-day symposium on data confidentiality in Sydney on 18 January 2011.

General Information

National Statistical Agencies and other data custodian agencies and organisations currently face a challenge in balancing access and use of data for research and policy development with privacy and confidentiality protection.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics is experiencing both a high level of user demand and increasing interest from researchers in more detail, more datasets and more flexibility of access. At the same time, there are a growing number of initiatives seeking to provide Australian researchers with access to linkable, de-identified data from a wide range of data sources. In this context, privacy and confidentiality methods and technologies are set to become increasingly important.

This symposium aims to provide an overview of data confidentiality issues and an introduction to current and emerging approaches. Topics to be covered will include:

- An overview of current, large-scale successful initiatives in Australia which make health and other personal data available for research
- A review of techniques designed to confidentialise data before release to researchers
- A review of the role of synthetic data methods
- A discussion of the role and design of remote access in future systems for balancing data access with confidentiality protection.

Speakers

- Professor Donald Rubin (Harvard University)
- Dr Christine O'Keefe (CSIRO Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics)
- Mr Tim Hawkes (Statistics New Zealand)
- Mr Daniel Elazar (Australian Bureau of Statistics)
- Ms Victoria Leaver (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Program

The draft Symposium Program, which is still subject to change based on speaker availability, may be accessed [here](#).

Who should attend?

Researchers and information managers interested in the issue of balancing access and use of data for research and policy development with privacy and confidentiality protection. This would include staff of CSIRO, ABS and other agencies and organisations, researchers and students.

Cost

The Symposium is free of charge to registered participants.
Registration is essential as places are limited.

Registration details

To avoid disappointment early registration is recommended. Registration by Friday 24 December would be most appreciated.
For changes after registration, please contact Mrs Kim Vredeveld, Kimberly.Vredeveld@csiro.au.

Please register [here](#).

Enquiries

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CSIRO Mathematics, Informatics and Statistics
Phone: +61 2 6216 7021
Email: Christine.OKeefe@csiro.au

Mr Peter Rossiter
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Phone: +61 2 6252 6024
Email: peter.rossiter@abs.gov.au

Professor Donald B. Rubin to visit Australia
Two Short Courses Presented by Professor Donald B. Rubin

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Census | beyond the count

2-4 MARCH 2011 - MELBOURNE

A showcase event that explores the issues that matter to all Australians.
We will look beyond the count and reveal what a difference the Census makes.
The **Census | beyond the count** conference will highlight, over two days, the effective and innovative use of Census data by government, community and private sector organisations.

For further information and registrations, go to
Census | beyond the count
<http://blog.abs.gov.au/blog/beyondthecount.nsf>

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NEED SOME STATISTICAL TRAINING?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) provides training on a range of topics to develop skills for high quality statistical collections and statistical analysis.

Our training programs are conducted by ABS staff with expertise in areas such as:

- questionnaire design
- data analysis
- survey management.

The courses teach practical skills by involving participants in individual and group exercises. We also hold regular seminars which may focus on statistical developments, publications, trends or issues.

The following link will take you to a list of some of the courses that the Tasmanian Office of the ABS has run: Tas Training Courses.

If the training requirements of your organisation are not met in the list of courses above, the ABS can customise training according to your needs. Please email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au and one of our consultants will phone you to discuss how the ABS can help you.

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Statistical Literacy



STATISTICAL LITERACY

In today's information-rich society, we encounter statistical information on a daily basis, ranging from unemployment rates, retail figures and cancer rates, to football ladders and cricket scores. Statistics tell interesting stories and enable us to make sense of the world. Statistics are essential for research, planning and decision-making purposes.

There are several concepts that recur throughout the literature on statistical literacy. These fall into four key areas and can be considered in a practical manner as 'criteria' on which to base statistical literacy:

1. Data awareness
2. The ability to understand statistical concepts
3. The ability to analyse, interpret and evaluate statistical information
4. The ability to communicate statistical information and understandings

In this issue, we will focus on understanding statistical concepts, and examine the difference between original, trend and seasonally adjusted data.

What is 'Original Data'?

'Original' means that very little has been done to the data. It is raw data, straight from the survey and shows all the ups and downs of the data being measured. You can see that the original data in the graph shows there is a spike in retail sales in December each year. This is due to increased spending for Christmas.

What does 'Seasonally Adjusted' mean?

Seasonal adjustment allows for and removes the regular, reoccurring influences that could distort the short term view of what is happening. For example, retail sales figures are always larger in December due to Christmas so the spike in retail spending is smoothed out.

What is a 'Trend Estimate'?

A trend estimate has not only had its seasonal factors allowed for, but it has also had effects from once-off, or irregular events, removed so that the data is not thrown off by what are essentially random events. For example, the Sydney Olympics distorted the ABS statistics on non-residential building approvals for that year. Trends are usually referred to in terms of direction e.g. whether the long term pattern of behaviour is showing an increase or a decrease.

What is a 'Time Series'?

A time series is a set of regular observations on a subject and enables you to see how things have changed over time. Seasonally adjusted and

trend data is most appropriate in relation to a set of time series data. A time series can be made up of economic data – such as monthly retail sales; demographic data like the population Census, or even social data comparing a household's expenditure or people's use of time between surveys.

Further Reading:

- A Guide to Interpreting Time Series - Monitoring Trend (cat. no. 1349.0)
- Australian Economic Indicators (cat. no. 1350.0)
- Time Series Analysis: The Basics – ABS Website
- Time Series Analysis: Seasonal Adjustment Methods – ABS Website

For further explanation of terms see Statistical Language! (cat. no. 1332.0.55.002)

In upcoming issues of Tasmanian Statistical News we will discuss other statistical literacy concepts in more detail. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about statistical literacy and its relevance to you, check out the article: What is statistical literacy and why is it important to be statistically literate? as featured in Tasmanian State and Regional Indicators (cat. no. 1307.6) or visit the Understanding Statistics portal on the ABS website.

Recent Releases



RECENT RELEASES

SELECTED RECENT RELEASES

29/11/10 Water Account, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 4610.0)

Presents information on the supply and use of water in the Australian economy in 2008-09, compiled in accordance with the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting. In successive sections, the Water Account provides additional information on key industries' (agriculture, mining, manufacturing, water supply, sewerage and drainage, households) water use and consumption practices.

25/11/10 Corrective Services, Australia, Sep 2010 (cat. no. 4512.0)

Contains national information on persons in adult custody and community-based corrections in Australia. Quarterly information is presented for each state and territory. Information available includes: sex; age; imprisonment rates; legal status (sentenced, unsentenced); type of custody (secure, open); sentenced receptions; federal prisoners and type of community-based corrective services orders. Indigenous data are also available.

24/11/10 Education and Work, Australia, May 2010 (cat. no. 6227.0)

Provides selected information on participation in education, highest educational attainment, transition from education to work and current labour force and demographic characteristics for the civilian population aged 15-64 years. Characteristics reported on include: type of educational institution attended or attending; level and main field of education of current study and highest level and main field of educational attainment. Information on unsuccessful enrolment, and deferment of study, is included for persons not studying in the survey year. Data on apprenticeships are also provided. Limited information is also included for persons aged 65-74 years who are in the labour force or marginally attached to it. Some of the statistical tables are presented in time series format.

01/11/10 House Price Indexes: Eight Capital Cities, Sep 2010 (cat. no. 6416.0)

Provides estimates of changes in housing prices in each of the eight capital cities of Australia. The information is presented in the form of price indexes constructed separately for established houses and for project homes.

22/10/10 Sports and Physical Recreation: A Statistical Overview, Australia, Oct 2010 (cat. no. 4156.0)

Provides a statistical overview of sports and physical recreation in Australia. Topics covered include output of the sports and physical recreation sector, employment in sports and physical recreation, government outlays on recreation, international trade in sports and physical recreation goods, attendances at sporting events, and participation in sports and physical recreation activities.

21/10/10 Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2007 to Jun 2009 (cat. no. 8165.0)

This product presents business counts, including data measuring levels and rates of business entries to and exits from the Australian economy, and business survival. These data are sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register. Detailed counts are presented by industry, main state and territory, type of legal organisation, institutional sector, employment size ranges and annual turnover size ranges. Detailed cross-classified tables are expected to be released as data cubes at a later date.

19/10/10 Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2010 (cat. no. 4172.0)

Provides a statistical overview of culture in Australia. Contains information on a range of topics including employment in culture, time spent on cultural activities, attendances at cultural venues and events, expenditure on culture, and imports and exports of cultural goods and services. Also provides profiles of the cultural sectors, grouped according to the Australian Culture and Leisure Industry Classification.

15/10/10 Census Data Enhancement Project: An Update, Oct 2010 (cat. no. 2062.0)

Commencing with the 2006 Census, the ABS began a project to enhance the value of Census data by bringing it together with other datasets to leverage more information from the combination of individual datasets than is available from the datasets separately. This paper provides an update with respect to the project for the 2011 Census of Population and Housing.

07/10/10 Tourist Accommodation, Small Area Data, Tasmania, Jun 2010 (cat. no. 8635.6.55.001)

Contains the results from the on-going quarterly Survey of Tourist Accommodation. Data provide information on the supply of, and demand for, tourist accommodation facilities. Data include number of establishments, capacity and employment for the quarter and occupancy and takings from accommodation for each month; by type of establishment and by star grading.

15/09/10 Measures of Australia's Progress, 2010 (cat. no. 1370.0)

This publication is designed to help Australians address the question, 'Is life in Australia getting better?'. MAP provides a digestible selection of statistical evidence in answer to this question. Australians can use this evidence to form their own view of how our country is progressing.

03/09/10 Labour Mobility, Australia, Feb 2010 (cat. no. 6209.0)

Provides information about paid employees (excluding payment in kind and contributing family workers) aged 15 years and over and their working arrangements, such as shift work, overtime, rostered days off and start and finish times. Among the topics covered are full-time/part-time status, industry, occupation, hours worked, overtime or extra hours worked, job scheduling, days worked and information about core employment benefits, such as leave entitlements. Estimates can be cross-classified by demographics such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth, as well as labour force characteristics.

02/09/10 Industrial Disputes, Australia, Jun 2010 (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001)

Includes data on number of disputes, employees involved, working days lost and working days lost per 1,000 employees in industrial disputes involving stoppages of work of 10 working days or more, classified by state, industry, cause of dispute, working days lost per employee involved and reason work resumed.

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If you wish to provide feedback or subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Clara Herbert on (03) 6222 5836 or email tasmania.statistics@abs.gov.au. We also encourage you to place this newsletter on your organisation's intranet.

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You can access our hand-held edition at: www.abs.gov.au/mobile.

Disclaimer

Please note that the ABS has implemented a hand-held stylesheet that removes images. This enables us to provide you fast loading pages while on a hand-held device. Please note that as a result, some graphs and other images may be removed and to see the full statistical product you should visit the full version of the ABS website.

About this Release

Tasmanian Statistical News is a quarterly electronic newsletter providing information about new developments including projects, surveys, outposted ABS officers, recent statistical releases, seminars, training and reviews.